

From: John Sidles
To: [PRC](#)
Subject: Project #3028516 - Mature Trees
Date: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 10:50:56 AM

Attention: Public Resource Center
Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection

Personnel: Julie Ledoux, 206-459-2364
Colin Vasquez, 206-684-5639

RE: Project #3028516 - Mature Trees

Dear Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection:

I am writing to you today in support of saving the mature trees on the parcels of land in Project #3028516.

These trees are home to Seattle's first nesting pair of Merlins, a small falcon that ordinarily inhabits the wild forests of the Pacific Northwest. These two began nesting in the Victory Heights neighborhood in 2008 and have continued to do so up to the present day. Now their progeny have also been documented as nesting nearby, using some of the mature trees on these very parcels.

I don't know if you've ever seen a Merlin in action, but it is a never-to-be-forgotten thrill. Though small, these are fierce creatures that seem to fear nothing. When they swoop out after prey, the entire bird population goes silent and either freezes in place, hides, or flies away as fast as they can.

Without mature conifers to nest and roost in, to hide while hunting, and to cache their prey, these wondrous falcons would never stay here in Seattle. That would be a real loss to the public.

I wish the developer could see the value such birds add to any houses the company might build. Imagine living next door to such wild things. I believe it is possible for the developer to build housing while retaining these mature trees. I also believe it is incumbent on the City of Seattle to do what it says it wants to: Increase tree canopy to at least 30%. Since 72% of all the tree canopy in town is on private land, it is in the public interest to save our heritage trees, both for the wildlife and for our own health. We cannot be a city that says we value our trees and then grants permits to cut them down.

I believe it's important to express these views in public, so the general public can see why preserving these trees is in all of our interest. Therefore, I request that you hold a public hearing before granting any building permits on these parcels. Thank you. - Sincerely,

John Sidles
4532 48th Avenue NE
Seattle WA 98105

